



**READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!**

**The following articles were  
accidentally left out of the  
September issue of the  
WESTMINSTER WORLD  
*(let's just blame it on technology)***

**Please enjoy the continuation of this  
month's edition of your  
church newsletter**

***Heartfelt apologies to the  
authors of these articles.***

## Refugee Sponsorship Program

Westminster's Council has enthusiastically endorsed participation in the Refugee Sponsorship Program. Our history of volunteering and providing support in a time of need is again before us, as a church and as a community partner.

Sponsoring a Refugee or a Refugee Family is a large responsibility, but with plenty of helpers aligned into areas of personal strength, we can share, learn and grow together with our choice of commitments. We will lighten responsibilities by spreading them amongst a number of committees. These committees would communicate with an oversight group consisting of representatives of the 4 churches (Brooklin United, Brooklin Unitarian Universalist, Kingsview United and Westminster United) involved in the project.

Committee makeup is based on input received from other Churches who have sponsored refugees and have willingly shared their experience and wisdom. We would look for volunteers for the following areas:

- Fundraising – Corporate and Community
- Publicity and Communications
- Housing
- ESL and Tutoring
- Transportation
- Job Search
- Skills Upgrading, Life Skills, Canadian Culture
- Support Network
- Technical Training
- Community Liaison



Volunteer involvement will be at different times depending on your area of interest. Some committees will be very busy initially, and others will become active much later.

In addition to seeking volunteers within our churches, a public meeting will be held Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Whitby Central Library. The public meeting will allow us to share information and encourage additional community volunteers. The Library has graciously stepped forward as co-sponsor of this meeting.

While we are still in the planning stages of this venture, inquiries on how to make financial contributions have already been received. Cheques can be made payable to **Westminster United Church** and clearly marked **Refugee Sponsorship** where they will be designated for that purpose only and a charitable receipt provided. Westminster's address is **1850 Rossland Rd E, Whitby, ON L1N 3P2**.

Westminster has always responded to the needs of others and we look forward to your thoughtful consideration in support of this **Refugee Sponsorship** project. Please contact Joanne MacPherson or Larry Morrow to advise of your interest or if you need more information. Our contact information is shown below.

Thank you for caring and sharing our many blessings,

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## NEW NAME FOR "DIVERSITY COMMITTEE"

We are pleased to announce the renaming of our committee to "**THE PARISH MOSAIC COMMITTEE**". Our committee made this change to highlight the many wonderful ways that we are all different, such as ethnicity, lifestyle, age or ability. The change also recognizes that these colorful differences contribute positively to making Westminster United an even more vibrant and relevant church in today's society.

The Mosaic Committee members will be working to welcome further diversity to Westminster and to foster this diversity from within. These activities will effectively take Westminster's recent positive vote for "Affirmation" to the "implementation" stage.

If you are interested in this committee and its work, we welcome you to contact our chairperson, Brian Woodlock at [brianwoodlock@rogers.com](mailto:brianwoodlock@rogers.com) or (416) 917-1986.

**'Once a man was asked, 'what did you gain by regularly praying to God?'The man replied, 'nothing... but let me tell you what I lost: Anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity, and fear of death.' Sometimes, the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing; which ultimately is the gain.'**



**Happy  
50th  
Anniversary**

Congratulations to  
**Bob and Maureen Dingman**  
who will be celebrating their  
Golden Anniversary  
on September 24th.

**Best Wishes  
and  
Many Blessings.**

**“Why I Give”** – this is an interesting, thought provoking statement. One key message in numerous articles on this topic is that people give to a church because they believe in its mission - they see how the church has changed people’s lives. How has Westminster changed people’s lives? Here are a few examples of how I believe Westminster has and continues to change people’s lives:

- ◆ Through prayers, support and caring for others, specifically the prayer shawls, the Divorce Care and Stroke Recovery groups, the Prayer Team and the Friendly Visitors outreach to individuals who are ill or shut-ins.
- ◆ Mission & Services – contributing \$35,000 in offerings in the past 19 months.
- ◆ St. Vincent’s Kitchen – 120+ hot meals are served to less fortunate folks, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month by the Westminster team. That’s over 1200+ hot meals through the course of a year, just from Westminster.
- ◆ Our Foodbank – last year over 322 individuals availed themselves of our foodbank offerings – these families will not go hungry.
- ◆ Christmas Food Hampers and Christmas Gifts – nothing wrenches at one’s heart more than seeing the teary eyes and quivering voice of a parent when gifts or a Christmas hamper are delivered to them – “there will be a Christmas” they must be thinking.
- ◆ Our Mitten and Sock trees – in the winter months, the hands and feet of young tykes are covered with the beautiful, warm mittens and comfy socks from our trees.
- ◆ The UCW and Foodman Group’s generous contributions – the socializing and camaraderie are a bi-product of the tireless efforts of both of these energetic groups. Their generous offerings to Westminster are most appreciated.
- ◆ The Small Group activities that are offered where folks can get together and share ideas, socialize and explore their faith more fully.
- ◆ Becoming an Affirming church – a huge accomplishment that offers inclusion to all. As an aside, we’ve been so successful that even some local 4-legged critters, aka racoons, apparently heard about our Affirming status and have been trying to become part of Westminster, literally.

Westminster is a great community to be part of and we should all be very proud of our generous donations - be they time, talent or financial resources, and what they enable us to achieve.

Thank you!

